(b) SEBI has sought explanations from the above corporate houses regarding funds given by them to the entities and from Ketan Parekh and his entities regarding the purpose of receipt and payment of funds from/ to corporates. Investigations have been initiated.

(c) and (d) Department of Company Affairs (DCA) has ordered inspection of books of accounts and other records of 98 companies (including Ranbaxy) under Section 209A of the Companies Act 1956 based on the Preliminary Investigation report of SEBI on stock market scam of 2001. 539 prosecutions have been launched/ordered so far, against the companies inspected for violation of various provisions of the Act.

Irregularities in sanctioning of loans

†3270. SHRIMATI KUM KUM RAI: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) The details of the industrialists and their institutes/industries of the country which have been provided with the loans by banks during the last three years alongwith the amount paid to them and form in which the payment was made;

(b) the details of the money received from the said Industries/ Financial Institutions so far;

(c) the amount of Banks and Financial Institutions which has been written off/put in NPA;

(d) the steps taken or proposed to be taken by Government to recover the said amount; and

(e) the action taken against the officials and bureaucracy responsible for issuing such loans?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) and (b) In accordance with the practices and usages customary amongst the banks and in conformity with provisions of statutes governing the financial institutions as also the provisions of Public Financial Institutions (Obligations as to Fidelity & Secrecy) Act, 1983, the specific information in respect of individual constituents cannot be divulged. However, the

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

outstanding advances of scheduled commercial banks to Industry (large & medium) for the last three years is as under:

(Rupees in crores)

Year Ending March	Outstanding advances
2000	1,47,319
2001	1,62,837
2002	1,72,324

(c) The gross non-performing assets (NPAs) of scheduled commercial banks and financial institutions as on 31st March, 2002 were Rs. 70,904 crore and Rs. 22,554 crores respectively. As per the available information, the bad debts written off by the public sector banks during the year 2001-02 were Rs. 6261.70 crores.

(d) Government of India and Reserve Bank of India (RBI) have advised the banks and financial institutions to take several steps for recovery of dues such as evolving and implementation of recovery policy by banks, filing of suits with civil courts, filing cases with Debt Recovery Tribunals (DRTs), compromise settlement through Settlement Advisory Committees, Lok Adalats and monitoring and follow up of Non Performing Assets (NPAs) at various levels. Credit Information Bureau has also been set up to disseminate information on borrowers to the banks. Corporate Debt Restructuring (CDR) scheme has been put in place to provide a transparent mechanism for restructuring of corporate debts of viable entities facing problems due to internal and external factors. A company *viz.* "Asset Reconstruction Company (India) Ltd." has been incorporated under the Companies Act, 1956. "The Securitisation & Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002" has been enacted to facilitate foreclosures and enforcement of securities in cases of default, in order to enable the banks and financial institutions to realize their dues. RBI has issued a revised guidelines for compromise settlement of chronic Non-performing Assets (NPAs) of Public Sector Banks on 29th January, 2003. These guidelines will cover all NPAs in all sectors irrespective of the nature of business, which have become doubtful or loss as on 31st March 2000 with outstanding balance of Rs. 10.00 crore and below.

(e) Staff accountability is invariably looked into by the banks while reviewing slippage of loans into NPA category.

Highest customs duty rates

3271. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY :

MISS MABEL REBELLO :

Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that customs duty rates are the highest in our country;

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard;

(c) the details of exports and imports made during the last three years: item-wise, quantity-wise with customs duty implications; and

(d) whether experts have opined that Government should hasten the tax reforms to ensure export competitiveness of the domestic industry?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) and (b) The basic customs duty rates in India vary from nil to the peak rate of 25% with a few exceptions for sensitive commodities where the rates are higher. Details of customs duty rates for all other countries are not available.

(c) The details of exports and imports country-wise and item-wise are monitored by Directorate General of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics which are available in its publication called "Monthly Statistics of Foreign Trade of India". The budget-head wise details of customs duty collection, for the last three financial years are given in the Statement (*See* below).

(d) Yes, Sir. The Government is also committed to, and has been implementing tax reforms.